Action plan to resolve alarming traffic problems in major cities

2838 SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to formulate any national level action plan to resolve alarming traffic problems particularly in major cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEO S. KHANDELA): (a) to (c) Realizing the seriousness of rapidly growing problem of urban transportation, the Central Government has formulated National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP) in April, 2006. It, inter-alia, seeks to promote integrated land use and transport planning, greater use of public transport and non-motorized modes of transport as well as intelligent transport systems. NUTP provides guidelines for central financial assistance, duly prioritizing investments in public transport, non-motorized transport and intelligent transport systems etc.

Opposition from wildlife experts to widening of NH-7

2839. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wildlife experts have opposed widening of NH-7 from Seoni to Nagpur as this is resulting in cutting the wildlife corridor between Pench and Kanha and Pench and Nagzir-Mavegon;

(b) if so, whether the alternative to develop the existing State Highway Nagpur-Katol-Pandhurna-Saunar-Chhindwara-Seoni-Jabalpur-Narsinghpur or Nagpur-Katol-Teegaon-Betul-Bhopal-New Delhi has been approved; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. A number of objections have been received from wild life experts to the alignment proposed by NHAI with a request to realign the NH-7 passing through the Pench Tiger Reserves to save the bifurcation of the tiger habitat. NHAI has taken these concerns into consideration and proposed a number of animal passes of adequate width and height at suitable locations as per the advice of the Forest Department and referred the proposal for the consideration of Ministry of Environment and Forests. The matter has subsequently been referred to the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), who after a series of hearings, has referred the matter for the consideration of Supreme Court.

(b) and (c) A final decision on following the existing alignment or an alternative alignment can be taken only after the decision of the Supreme Court.